

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are pending by entry of this Amendment.

Claims 19 and 22 have been cancelled without disclaiming their subject matter. Claims 23 and 24 have been newly added. The canceled claim 22 has been represented in the new claim 24. Claims 1, 9, 15, 16 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been entered.

New drawing, Fig. 7, has been added to show a carrier and an ink cartridge. No new matter has been added. The specification has been amended to refer to the new drawing.

Regarding Claim objections

Claims 19-22 were objected to because of the informalities.

Claims 19 and 22 have been cancelled.

With respect to the objection of claim 20, the informalities (“said springs interposed....”) recited by the examiner were in claim 19, which has been cancelled by this amendment, rather than 20.

With respect to the objection of claim 21, “said rack” recited by the examiner is in the last line of claim 20, not in the last line of claim 21. In response to the examiner’s objection, “said rack” in claim 20 has been replaced with “said moving means.”

Regarding Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawrence (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,543). Claims 3 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence.

Claims 1 and 9 as amended recite “said printed sheet supported by said holder not being in contact with the stacked sheet on said tray.” This feature is not disclosed in Lawrence ‘543. None of the figures and the specification in Lawrence ‘543 show the claimed feature. Since every element recited in claims 1 and 9 is not found in Lawrence ‘543, claims 1 and 9 as amended are not anticipated by Lawrence ‘543. Also, Lawrence ‘543 does not even recognize the problem which is to be solved in the present application. There is suggestion or motivation, neither in the references themselves nor in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference. Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are not obvious over Lawrence ‘543.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3 and 11 is also respectfully requested because the applicant has presented above reasons why independent claims 1 and 9 are patentable and claims 3 and 11 depend effectively from claims 1 and 9, respectively.

Claims 4-8 and 12-18 are also patentable because these claims depend effectively from claim 1 or 9.

Claim 20 has been amended to correct the informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection of claims 20 and 21 are respectfully requested.

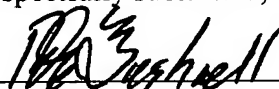
In view of the above, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Reconsideration of the rejections and

objections is requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Should a Petition for extension of time be required with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is kindly requested to treat this paragraph as such a request and is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of the incurred fee if a check of the requisite amount is not enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 7/21/30
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